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POLITICAL CAREER OF Dr. EDSON B. OLDS,

Delineated in a Speech delivered before the Central Chippewa Club of Columbus, on Friday Evening, September 10th, 1852, by the Hon. Jos. H. Geiger, *of Circleville, O.*

To discuss the qualifications of candidates for prominent offices, is not less a guaranteed right than an imperative duty of American citizenship. Every man is interested in having upright, reliable national legislators, as to the hands of each one is delegated the voice and will of upwards of ninety thousand people, and to them combined is entrusted this great country—its prosperity, its interests and its honor. If we have men for public functionaries of moral stamina and a healthful judgment as to policies, our institutions must confer benefits upon all; but if we have those who are selfish and mercenary—willing to sacrifice general good for the momentary success of party, and equally willing to subsidize any party to their individual aggrandizement, government must be uncertain and fluctuating, and its operations prejudicial to all classes. Some politicians consider Congress as a good place to make money, and their ideas of duty extend not little further than the regular demand for their wages. Others glory in the name of *Honorable*, no difference what may be their real condition. Some think they must oppose whatever originates with the opposition, and support all projects of their political friends without inquiry as to their usefulness or impolicy, and too many dishonor their position by using it merely to continue themselves in power, or contribute to their future advancement. It is to be hoped that in this district at least, we shall inquire into the claims and fitness of the respective candidates for Congress and then determine which to support. When a man has been in public life for years, the true criterian by which to judge him must be his acts, words and votes. The past is a fair basis for future calculation. If he has, in political questions, been honorable, open and manly—been true to his principles, stood by his friends, and made good his promises, then you can securely give him your suffrages; but if he has violated his pledges trampled upon espoused sentiments, and without hesitat on overthrown and beaten party coadjutors who stand in the way of his ambition, and thus shown himself unreliable and unsound, it is the dictate of common honesty to despise and reject him. I am here this evening to discuss the political character of Edson B. Olds, the Democratic nominee for Congress. I intend to do so fully and fearlessly. I shall make no charges which cannot be proved, and shall show by indisputable Democratic authority, that he has been A MERE MERCENARY SOLDIER FIGHTING FOR PAY"—once "*died for the want of honest principles*"—was always a "*noisy, furious and bitter* Federalist," and, according to the Circleville Enquirer, a "*Wolf in sheep's clothing.*" I shall, during the discussion, introduce as my witness, men whose Democracy cannot be questioned—Charles Brough, of the Cincinnati Enquirer; Samuel Medary, of the Ohio Statesman, and Samuel Cox, now of the Democratic Flag, Kentucky, formerly of the Lancaster (O.) Eagle. I shall also use the circulars, depositions, and votes of the candidate himself. Listen patiently, and I will, from the documents, present you a picture of the fine arts, resembling neither "fish, flesh, nor fowl," beef-steak or bologna sausage. The Hon. Edson B. Olds is now in the American Congress. He has lately made a speech on the "Issues of Parties," and certainly no man is better adapted to handling that subject, for he has been on every side of every issue, and wheels with the rapidity of the boy who could turn so fast as to leave the seat of his breeches in front. He has been for and against a United States Bank—for and against the Tariff—for and against Slavery—for and against the Sub-Treasury—for and against Hard Money—for and against Texas—for and against Secret Societies—for and against State Banks—for and against the legal collection of debts—for and against the policy of Jackson—for and against Clay—for and against Harrison—for and against Van Buren—for and against Cass—and against Medill, "and for the greatest good to that greatest number, and that number No. *One.*" Oh he's the broth of a boy.

Some time before my day in Pickaway county, Dr. Olds had caught a glimpse of the "raw head and bloody bones of Morgan," and believing, perhaps conscientiously, that Secret Societies were injurious to the country, he became an Anti-Mason. How long he remained so I do not know. There were many upright men united with him in opposition to secret societies, but the Doctor's rancor against Masonry did not endure, and when the opportunity occurred, he became the leading man in establishing an Odd Fellows Lodge in our borough. To this I had no objections—better or truer men than the Masons or Odd Fellows can be found no where; they have ready hands and benevolent hearts, and I merely mention the incident to show the change in a great many sentiments. I know the Doctor never used the Lodge for party purposes. I know he never could have done so. In 1838, and prior to that time, the Doctor was an Abolitionist, and some time during that year he had a public discussion with H. W. Smith, Esq., now of London, Manison county, Ohio, Smith favoring the colonization views of the Slavery question; and it was said to the Doctor last fall, by one of his political friends, in the presence of L. Yerington, of Circleville, and myself, that he had gone into a printing office, with some others, in the days when he was a Liberty man, and tried to buy the press to make an Abolition paper. The Doctor made no denial of the statement but merely said, "he was a Whig then."

Until the fall of 1838, the Doctor had always voted with the Whigs, and been an active partizan, but during that year he had some difficulty with the Bank of Circleville; he had been a stockholder and director, and was not that year re elected a director. Some difficulty occurred in their pecuniary transactions which embittered him greatly, and he determined to be revenged on the Bank or save the public. The enormities and corruptions of the institution flared into his eyes until they were glazed, and the night-mare was only dispelled by his loudly crying, Bank Reform. He had been a director of the institution for years before, and was acquainted with its business, and knew of its corruptions, extortions and frauds, if any existed, and he was participating in the profits of this institution; yet, "like a lamb before his shearers, he opened not his mouth," but so soon as he, for reasons not ne

cessary here to explain, grew hostile, then, and not until then, did he dilate upon the banks. He went to township meetings, and without identifying himself with any party, pitted himself against the banks, and declared that whichever party went furthest for bank reform, he would throw his cap for the highest. He rode this hobby with great gusto, for two years, until it galled him, and then, anxious to mount a larger horse to display his powers, he *all* went over to the Democratic party in 1840, with a few subsequent *variations*. He was two years being born into the Democratic ranks, and even yet many of the party deny the paternity, and to this day say he is "*his own child.*" During the summer of 1839, an event occurred which diminished materially, the Doctor's animosity toward banking. Some person in Pickaway county, in reflecting upon speculations, remembered that the Legislature of Ohio, in 1818, had granted a charter to the Bank of Circleville, which charter had never been used. There were two banks chartered by the same name, and the one incorporated in 1818, although having the oldest charter, was called the *New Bank* of Circleville, because it began operations last. Olds took hold of this charter, and with some others, revived it. His denunciation of banks and their swindling and rascality, was submerged in the prospect of becoming associated with, and having the control and use of one. He forgot, in his strenuous efforts to galvanize this charter, his dear love for the people, and his desire to prevent sharks from plundering the community. The season before, he had been loud, earnest and pathetic in his representations on the stump of the enormities of banking, expansions and contractions, false statements of the institutions as to their real specie basis, and the very general villainy of the whole business, but the New Bank of Circleville clouded all these considerations, and urged him forward in bringing into life and activity, an institution which was more infamously and corruptly conducted than any corporation in this section of Ohio, which passed into the hands of designing sharkers, through which some of our best citizens were misled and cheated, and by the rascally failure of which all classes of our community were defrauded and wronged and plundered. In the fall of 1842, the New Bank of Circleville having disastrously exploded, Edson, B. Olds, disguised in a new suit of Democratic clothing, made his debut before the voters of Pickaway county, for the Legislature of Ohio, and was a candidate for several years after. During one of the campaigns, the Whig paper charged on him his connexion with the New Bank of Circleville, which the Doctor denied—and to the consideration of this subject I invite special attention, as exhibiting the most extraordinary spectacle which it has ever been my lot to witness. I should place Dr. Olds side by side with himself, as set forth in his *statement then made*, and in his *deposition which was afterwards made*, and ask every man to read both, and see whether they agree or conflict, and if they do conflict, which to believe; and further, what confidence can be placed in the promises of a man whose published manifestos, when he solicits votes, is contrary to his testimony when under oath. Side by side I place the statement of Edson B. Olds, the candidate, with his deposition. Read and ponder, and see whether any depth or width of party prejudice can induce you to support such a man:

STATEMENT OF THE CANDIDATE.

I am charged in said (Circleville) Herald, with having aided in putting in operation the New Bank of Circleville, and thereby having defrauded the people. So far from this being true, the *honest* editor of that *truthful* paper knows well, "*that I did all in my power to prevent that Bank from going into operation. He knows that I never owned a single dollar's worth of stock in that institution at any time during its existence.* The stock books of the Bank are now in the hands of this conscientious editor, and I *defy* him to prove aught to the contrary."

DEPOSITION.

In Pickaway Common Pleas.

The Receivers of the Bank of Circleville, chartered in 1818.
vs.
Felix W. Renick, and others.

The deposition of Edson B. Olds, taken before me, Wm. B. Thrall, an Associate Judge of the Court of Common Please, of Pickaway county, Ohio, on Saturday, the 12th day of April, A. D. 1845, at the office Joseph Olds, in the town of Circleville, and intended to be used as evidence on the hearing of a case now pending in said Court, wherein the Receiver of the Bank of Circleville, chartered in 1818, are complainants, and Felix W. Renick and others are respondents.

The said Edson B. Olds, of lawful age, being by me first duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith That deponent was present, at the office of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, of Pickaway county Ohio, in the town of Circleville, on the 16th day of August, 1839, at which time books for subscription to the capital stock of the Bank of Circleville, chartered in 1818, were first offered. Of the commissioners named in the charter, there were present, Samuel Lybrand, John Barr, Jonathan Renick and Jacob Shoemaker, and no more. There were seven of said commissioners supposed to be living. John Barr was at that time, and had been for several years previously, a resident of the State of Indiana, and was then on a visit to his children in this county. Mr. Lybrand was appointed Chairman of the meeting of the commissioners, and *this deponent was appointed Secretary.*

The small book with leather cover, now here exhibited to me, marked (A.) the first page and second page of which, to the signature of Samuel Lybrand, is *in my hand writing*, was the book used on that occasion for recording the proceedings of the commissioners and *recording subscriptions to the capital stock of said Bank.*

The subscriptions made on that day are those on the 7th page and the 8th page of said book, down to and including the name of Elliott Halstead. That of Elliot Halstead was on that day for $1,000. On this line, of page 8, which is now blank, and between the signatures of Wm. Y. Emmet and Robert Campbell, this deponent subscribed two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the capital stock of said Bank. This subscription was made by deponent, on consultation with Andrew Hunter, John L. Green and Wm. P. Darst, for the purpose of preventing Gen. George House, and his associates from abroad, from obtaining the contract of the Bank. On the adjournment of the meeting that day, said book was left with *deponent*, and remained in my possession until some time in November of the same year, during which time no further subscriptions were made to the capital stock of said Bank in said book, nor was subsequently, to the said 16th of August, any meeting of said commissioners. About one week after the meeting of the commissioners above referred to, General House came to deponent in Circleville, and produced to me, *as Secretary of the Commissioners*, and holding the book of subscription, a certificate of Samuel Lybrand, setting forth that said House had deposited with said Lybrand a certificate of deposite in the Bank of Gallipolis, for the sum of twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars, being fifteen per cent. on one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the capital stock of said Bank, and desired of me to permit him to subscribe in the book that amount of stock, which I refused to do alleging as a reason for such refusal, that the capital stock was already subscribed by other individuals to within a few hundred dollars of the full amount authorized by the charter.

In November, I think, at all events not earlier than October, of that year, upon the agreement of House, that *the* Bank should loan to me ten thousand dollars, at the rate of six per cent. interest, during the existence of the charter, *I erased my subscription* before referred to, and *surrendered to said House* the book. The

entries of subscription, on pages 2 and 3, of said book, and also the subscription on page 8, in the names of George N. Kinney, E. E. Smith and George House, of fifty thousand dollars each, were made after my surrendering to said House said books, and not under the direction of the Commissioners. This deponent, as secretary of the Board of Commissioners, never signed any notice or call for a meeting of the stockholders of said bank, for the election of directors or any other purpose. Such a notice was signed by Samuel Lybrand, as Chairman of said Commissioners, and further saith not. EDSON B. OLDS.

I, William B. Thrall, an acting Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Pickaway county, do hereby certify that Edson B. Olds was by me sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth—and that the deposition by him subscribed was reduced to writing by me, and was taken at the time and place in the caption referred, both parties being present by their counsel.

W. B. THRALL, *Associate Judge.*

Here, then, was a statement *deliberately* penned. It was put forth before his oath was made, and of course he had not forgotten, at that time, the matters to which he subsequently swore. It could not have been a failure of memory. If that deposition is true the statement is false. If the statement is true, the deposition is false. They contradict each other, and no logic can reconcile them. Now, how stand they. Are they similar? He *stated* that, "I DID ALL IN MY POWER TO PREVENT THAT BANK FROM GOING INTO OPERATION." He SWEARS that at the FIRST meeting of the Commissioners named in the charter "*this deponent*," (Edson B. Olds,) "*was appointed Secretary;*" that the writing on 1st and 2d page of the book used on that occason for recording the proceedings of Commissioners and receiving subscriptions to the capital stock of said Bank was in his hand writing, and that he subscribed the delicate little amount of TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS to the capital stock of said institution. How does swearing he was *acting as Secretary, receiving subscriptions, recording proceedings and subscribing two hundred and fifty thousand dollars* comport with the statement that he did "*all* in his power to prevent the Bank going into operation." The Doctor further states that he "never owned a single dollars worth of stock in that institution at any time during its existence." The Bank was not in operation, but it had a legal *existence* while Edson B. Olds owned this stock. Nearly all the preliminary steps had been completed. When House first went to Olds to take stock, he refused to permit him to have any, alleging as a reason for such refusal that all but a few hundred dollars was taken. Olds then considered himself the legitimate owner of the stock he had subscribed, and declined relinquishing it until House would approach him in a more becoming way. He swears that he subscribed that large amount of stock "for the purpose of preventing General George House, and his associates from abroad, from obtaining the control of it. General House was known as a speculator in banks of doubtful character. His representation as a safe and prudent man, was not good. Olds believed that if he sold to him the stock, he might injure and cheat the community with the control of the institution it would give him and his associates, and as he could make nothing by periling the interests of the people, he stood firm in their support. But House *knew his man*—he understood the Doctor's *commercial* character, and he baited him—the Doctor was not proof against the temptation and he fell. Before the offer of House to give him the use of ten thousand dollars for six per cent. during the continuance of the institution, his doubts of the fairness and integrity of House, and his love for the security of the people, vanished like mist before the sun, and, as he says, for that compensation he erased his subscription, *surrenders* the books into the hands of House, and opened the door through which our laborers, mechanics, farmers and merchants were cheated out of their money. *The use of ten thousand dollars for a few years,* was the price for which Edson B. Olds betrayed this community into the hands of George House, to be swindled and gouged. But I turn in disgust and humiliation from this disgraceful transaction, and submit to yourselves for reflection the propriety of being represented in Congress by such an agent.

I will now, gentlemen, endeavor to establish that no party can trust this man; that he is false alike to foes and friends, and that no one will have any right to complain if he exhibits duplicity, because his past career as a politician shows that nothing else can be expected. He has not only deserted the Whig party and now gains his chief glory in traducing and villifying the memory and names of its best men, but he has, since his connexion with the Democracy, turned traitor to them according to their own testimony, and defeated their regularly nominated candidates. It is scarcely necessary to recur to the session of 1842–3, when Olds was in the Legislature. You will all remember the events of that year. He and Byington and McNulty were in constant war, and when Olds, in a speech, said he could expose the rascality of the Whigs, because he had been one of them and understood their tricks, McNulty replied that he supposed he could, for the damndest rascal always turned States evidence. The noise and turmoil of that session was remarkable, and the Democratic papers very generally disapproved of Olds' course and viewed him as an unsafe man. During that session a law was passed districting the State for Congressional purposes, and dividing its pendency, (as is stated in a letter copied into and endorsed by the Ohio Statesman,) Olds promised not to be a candidate for the first term in the district of Fairfield, Pickaway and Fayette. Each particular man felt anxious to make a district for himself, and it was necessary to have some understanding as to how long each of the *statesmen* would wait. To keep off and not interfere with Col. Medary, was the agreement, and with the propriety of that bargain I have nothing to do. The Legislature adjourned, and in due time the period for the nomination of Congressional candidates arrived. Olds had grown restive, and he determined to mar the arrangement—he wanted to operate in a larger sphere—his clothes were too small for his aspirations, and he determined to employ the proper appliances to beat Medill. He knew Col. Medill would have a majority in the district convention, therefore he endeavored to arrange matters that the Whigs should run no candidate and he would try it single-handed against Col. Medill. But I can explain more clearly his course and the sentiments of the Democracy towards Olds and the light in which they viewed him and his conduct, by a reference to their papers. I will now read you some extracts from the Lancaster (O.) Eaglet, published by Samuel Pike, then and now a Democratic editor—also from the Ohio Statesman and the Cincinnati Enquirer, and if you are a Democrat and believe the opinions of your own men, why will you not prefer an honest Whig to an unblushing demagogue? Let not any blindness of prejudice prevent the purgation of your party from one who, if these papers are to be believed, is from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet, a living, moving, foul conglomeration of political ulcers, and who is in your ranks only for spoils. He will desert you the moment you refuse to give him place and power, for he cares no more about your principles and measures than does a wild goose about its father:

From the Ohio Lancaster Eagle of July 31, 1843.

"THE OHIO STATESMAN—ITS OPINION OF EDSON B. OLDS.—ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF OLDS' TREASON TO THE DEMOCRACY.

"The editor of the Ohio Statesman, in the article we have copied below, from that paper, has written the epitaph upon the political grave-stone of Dr. Olds, in strong and just language, '*died for the want of principles.*' This same epitaph has been inscribed upon Dr.

Olds' head-stone by every Democratic paper in Ohio, which has spoken upon the matter. Before even the late astounding developements of the treason of Olds in this district, his political treachery had been sufficiently exposed at Columbus, during the session of the last Legislature, in his abolition votes—in his attempt, by an unnatural league with the Federalists, to fasten upon Ohio again, the curse of unlimited and unrestricted banking, in his utter violation of his solemn pledges made to his constituents, and in violation of all the principles of bank reform, for which the Democracy had fought for years—by his endeavoring to divide and distract the Democracy of Ohio, by secretly getting up meetings in several counties through his apostate allies, to uphold his infamous bill on banking, and to re-establish the shin-plaster mill—by his base attempt, secretly made, to defeat the election of the Hon. WM. ALLEN, and by various other acts, which none but a *man devoid of political honesty* could have done. Before the close of the session of the Legislature, Dr. Olds was politically dead and buried in Ohio. *He did not enjoy the confidence of a solitary pure and honest Democrat in the Legislature.* Standing thus, as he then did, in the estimation of the Democracy generally in Ohio, we were the less surprised at any *new act of treachery* he might commit; but driven to desperation, he did indeed take a bolder course of treason than we had anticipated. We did not believe that his sagacity could so far desert him as to allow him to enter into so open a bargain and sale with the enemy as has been proved upon him. TREACHEROUS WE KNEW HIM TO BE;—CORRUPT AND A MERE MERCENARY SOLDIER, FIGHTING FOR PAY, WE KNEW HIM TO BE. But we expected he would carry on his treasonable plans more secretly and cautiously than he has done. But there is a Providence which watches over truth, and has ever, sooner or later, overwhelmed the opponents of that truth, and confounded the traitor with his own desires;—that Providence has left Dr. Olds to be destroyed by his own madness and his own guilt, before he could consummate his treason."

In introducing a letter from the Hon. John M. Creed, the Ohio Eagle of the same date, uses the following language:

"Dr. Olds' 'clincher' clinched. '*Mark how a plain tale shall put a* LIAR *down.*'"

It is not necessary here to give the letter referred to.

"Again we thank God for the timely exposure of the traitor and his treason, and to the noble Democracy of Ohio, we would announce the good news, that the Democracy of the 9th Congressional District, almost to a man, having discovered the treachery of E. B. Olds, have written his epitaph, as long since it was written elsewhere, "*Died for the want of honest principles.*" He has gone back to the Federal party, which he only left in 1840, to get office, and with a conscience violated with foul treason branded upon his forehead, and reeking with political and private corruption, he sinks to that grave of infamy which is the just doom of the traitor. May his fate be a warning to all politicians who would basely sell their principles for place and ambition."

"THE CONSPIRACY BETWEEN E. B. OLDS AND THE FEDERALISTS TO BREAK UP A DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, AND THE DEMOCRACY OF THE 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, FULLY PROVED AND SUSTAINED!

* * * "E. B. Olds, till 1840, was a noisy, furious and bitter Federalist. He was a man of some education and some political knowledge, and for a whole life up to 1840, had opposed Democracy. In that year he suddedly jumped over upon the Democratic side. Ignorant men of forty years of age, wo have never read or known much about politics, sometimes honestly, in a monent change their politics; but old politicians seldom do. Olds was an old Whig politician when he jumped into the Democratic ranks. The probability then was, that when he turned, he did it from interested motives. He was so charged in 1840. He then, in 1841–'2, solicited office, and obtained a nomination to the Legislature. On the stump, to the Democracy, he advocated Democratic doctrines, and pledged himself to uphold them in the Legislature. When he was beat upon the first trial, fearing a second heat, he secretly gave the Whigs of Pickaway county assurances that if they would not oppose him, he would vote *against Wm. Allen* for the Senate of the United States, a man, the ideal of the Democracy of Ohio, and whom, *upon the stump*, before the Democrats, Olds had proffered to uphold. Olds also, to obtain a few Whig Abolition votes, before his election, secretly told a leading Whig Abolitionist of Pickaway county that he was an Abolitionist—while to the Democrats, on the stump, he denied being an Abolitionist. The Whigs, relying upon Olds' secret pledges, made no real opposition to him on the second trial, and he was elected. Now follow Olds to the Legislature;—once there, *he did endeavor, secretly, to defeat* Wm. Allen for the Senate, agreeably to his secret pledge to the Whigs, made before his election, and *contrary to his open* pledges to the Democracy. *He did also* vote for Abolition measures, and proved himself to be an Abolitionist, *as he had*, secretly, to Whigs, *declared himself to be. He also did carry out his pledges secretly made to the Whigs, respecting the Banking system*, and did openly *violate the solemn pledges he had made on the stump to the Democracy.*

* * * "Olds returned home, a baffled, defeated, disappointed man;—all his wild visions of his being made Governor or United States Senator, which, like the frog, he had foolishly blown himself up with, were exploded. He was also partially killed off in Pickaway county, and knew he could never again be elected to the Legislature by the Democracy. Frantic, reckless, he looks round, asking "What office can I get." He knew it was utterly idle to suppose he could ever receive a nomination for Congress by the Democratic party acting together harmoniously. The only hope left him then, was to divide and distract the Democratic party, and, as he told Huston, break up the Convention, and receive the Whig support.

* * * * * *

"While Col. Medill has been a faithful Democrat from his cradle to the present time, and as such, on *all occasions* battled for the supremacy of his principles, Dr. Olds has admitted that his FIRST *Democratic vote* was cast in the memorable year of 1840. This is a fact which Dr. Olds, nor his hired minions dare deny; but Dr. Olds was *raised a Federalist.* He fought with a most bitter resentment against General Jackson, during the whole of his illustrious career—voted for Old Tip, in 1836, and supported Frank Granger, the Abolitionist, against Col. Johnson, the "war-worn HERO of the Thames." Voting with the Democracy, for sinister motives, in 1840, for the first time, he was returned to the Legislature, last fall, to aid in the glorious work of 'reform,' when he united with the enemy in attempting *again* to enforce the old banks upon the country, without any substantial safe-guard in behalf of the people, and thereby to open the door for the old system of bank frauds, bank swindling, and bank failures. What a *glorious* Democrat is this Dr. Olds!

"The Federal party, (or the leaders of that party,) are praying most devoutly that a United States Mammoth Bank may again be re-chartered—Dr. Olds being a Whig at heart, and having once deserted his pledge upon the bank question, what evidence have the people that he will not again prove recreant to his trust, and espouse for a second time, the interests of that accursed and infamous institution? He sustained it against General Jackson, in 1832—he united with the traducers of the President, when the deposits were taken from the grasp of that monster, and at all times, and under all circumstances, denounced every Democrat who had the independence, and moral and political honesty to defend the President in his course. May he not—and have the people any reason whatever to believe that he will not, as willingly unite again

with his party, should he be elected to a seat in Congress, as he did last winter in the Legislature? For one we believe he would. He would as readily unite with the Federalists in Congress to resuscitate the defunct mammoth, as he did with the same party in the Legislature, to entail upon Ohio the shinplaster system, which he strove for years to keep in successful operation for his own aggrandizement. A man who is thus easily veered from one side to another—who possesses no opinion independent of love of office—a man who is a Whig to-day and a Democrat to-morrow—a man who violates his most sacred pledges to his constituents—a man who disregards the truth on all occasions—is such a man fit to be the representative of a free people? * * * * * *

"KEEP IT BEFORE THE PEOPLE—That while in the Legislature, this same Edson B. Olds voted the entire Abolition vote—in favor of abolishing all laws creating a difference between the white man and the negro, on account of color—against the repeal of the charter of the Oberlin Institute—an institution in which the principles of *practical* amalgamation are taught and enforced. Thus giving every inducement to the Abolition party to believe that he was, in every sense of the word, as good an Abolitionist as the best of them.

"AND MIND THIS, TOO—That Dr. Olds pledged himself to certain Whigs of Pickaway county, last year, that in the event of his election to the Legislature, he would vote AGAINST THE HON. WM. ALLEN for Senator in Congress!

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST—Remember that Dr. Olds was a Whig up to 1840—that he has attempted to destroy the Democratic party in this district, by entering into a conspiracy with the Whigs of Lancaster, for the purpose of defeating the election of Col. Medill, and fastening upon the district the curse of a Whig Representative in Congress."

From the Ohio Statesman of July 25, 1843.

EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENTS.

We say extraordinary developments—but those acquainted with Dr. Olds' conduct last winter in the Legislature—his Whiggish propensities and his disorganizing efforts, will not consider *anything* very extraordinary that his ambition may dicatate. No one rejoiced more than we did at his election last fall, to the Legislature over his brother Jo, but he had scarcely got warm in his seat, before we had occasion to regret that *such a Democrat* had ever imposed on his party and his friends. Considering the short time he had been in our ranks, we felt disposed to treat him as kindly as possible, hoping for the best. But all hope of making a Democrat out of him, except by fits and starts, was evidently vain. Few men are better calculated to deceive those around him, for a time, than the Doctor.

But the crooked course of a politician is not long to be hid under a bushel, or slimed over by cunning and deceit, the truth will out, a fatality as certain as there is a just God. The fate of one circuitous, deceitful politician is the fate of all, the *time* of one may be longer than another, but their end is always the same. Their high-built, airy castles, just at the grasp, crumble in the dust, and unerring posterity writes their epitaph in letters of burning justice. It is a gloomy sight to look down into the grave yard of Democratic traitors and witness the prostrate hopes of intellect and ambition, and read upon each tomb stone—

"DIED, for the want of honest principles."

From the Ohio Eagle.

A BASE AND FOUL CONSPIRACY FULLY EXPOSED—READ! READ!!

Letter from John C. Raney, Esq., to John M. Creed, Esq., dated—

LANCASTER, July 13, 1843.

Dear Sir:—Some two or three weeks ago, we had a casual conversation on the subject of the Congressional election in this district, when you informed me that Mr. ANDREW HUSTON and Dr. OLDS had been in Lancaster on the previous evening, and that while here the former gentleman, (Mr. Huston,) had suggested the propriety of the Whigs making no nomination; giving as a reason, that if Dr. Olds had an assurance to that effect, he would PREVENT ANY NOMINATION BEING MADE by the Democratic party, and indicating, at the same time, the *course* by which the Doctor expected to be able to *effect* that object. I did not regard our conversation as in the slightest degree confidential, and as the matter has transpired, and has been partially denied, will you have the kindness to state to me in writing what you then stated verbally, in reference to the remarks of Mr. Houston, as above alluded to.

Very respectfully, JOHN C. RANEY.

To JOHN M. CREED, Esq.

[REPLY.]

LANCASTER, July 17, '43.

Dear Sir:—You ask me to state a conversation that transpired between myself and A. Huston, Esq., of Circleville, in reference to the Congressional election. Under ordinary circumstances I would have declined placing myself in a position which necessarily throws me back, to some extent, in the political field, but as the statements involved in your note are of a personal character, and as my name has been used in connexion therewith, a sense of duty requires AN EXPLICIT STATEMENT AT MY HANDS. Some weeks since, I met Mr. Houston in G. Steinman's reading room, and the subject of politics, (*particularly that connected with the election of a Congressman,*) was fully discussed. I then distinctly stated that personally I felt no interest in the matter, but if a Whig candidate were run, my decided preference would be for Col. Florence, of Pickaway. Mr. Huston spoke of Dr. Olds, and the extraordinary efforts he was making to secure a seat in Congress. He observed that the majority in the district was so decidedly Democratic that there was nothing to be gained by running a Whig—that in Pickaway, a number of leading Whigs—although they entertained no strong personal attachment for Olds, yet thought that success could more effectually be secured by bringing him out and throwing the Whig votes upon him. He then went on to observe that Olds had seen the Central Committees of Pickaway and Fayette, and had arranged everything according to his wishes—that he intended those counties should be represented according to the number of townships in each, without reference to the population, and when in convention, he would urge his own nomination, on these grounds: First, That such a representation was the most democratic; Second, That Pickaway, as the central county, was entitled to the candidate; and—Third, That they would oppose the selection of an individual from Fairfield, as she had always had the candidate, no matter in what district she was placed.

He then stated that if Dr. Olds could, before the day appointed for holding the Convention, be *assured* of the WHIG support, and that it was not their intention to bring out a candidate, he would *prevent a nomination*, if necessary, by forcing the Convention to dissolve without it; and that he should *prefer* that course, as he would *glory* in running single handed *against* Col. Medill, believing he could *beat* him *with ease*. This was about the substance of the conversation, as it took place. It was freely communicated by Mr. Huston, without any pumping on my part. Mr. Huston did not, at any time during the conversation, state that he was authorized to make any proposition on behalf of Dr. Olds, but the whole conversation was as to what the Doctor *could or would* do, under such and such circumstances. He informed me that the Doctor had come over with him, and had stopped at Mr. Steck's tavern. I will not speak of other matters here, but shall reserve the privilege of doing so hereafter, if necessary. Yours, JOHN M. CREED.

JOHN C. RAINEY, Esq.

"Dr. Olds first goes to a leading and active Whig of Pickaway county, his business friend, and throws suspicion on his own party friends as intending, what he termed, dishonesty, a Congressional delegation by population instead of territory, which really was the difference of opinion between the county committees, and holds out to his Whig partner in business that he might, under such circumstances, run against the nomination! This was done of course in a most *delicate whisper*, (in a buggy wagon in the woods;) for Huston informs us that they were "opposed to each other" in politics, and very "tenacious of their opinions." But the delicate information being too good to keep, Mr. Huston prevails on the Doctor to stay at Lancaster all night, until he could communicate with some trusty Whigs, postpone a nomination on their part, until the Doctor could get his party into such a fix as would make their defeat certain and a Whig triumph easy. Such were the movements on foot, and Dr. Olds' own witness testifies that he was at the bottom of it. No man professing to be a Democrat, who would converse with a "*bitter* opponent," as Dr. Olds did with Huston, is worthy of being trusted by a party made up of honest, high-minded men. Why throw suspicion upon the convention, and then carry those suspicions to the enemy, as Huston says he is, of the Democratic party? Dr. Olds has no excuse for such conduct; none can be made. This overture from Olds to Huston, was repeated in this city by a prominent Whig of Lancaster, we are informed, immediately after it was made, and was talked of as an offer from Olds to the Whigs, among themselves.

The outrageously abusive language in the Circleville Watchman, against Mr. Medill, for stating that such a rumor was afloat, does not go to convince any one of the injustice done Dr. Olds, but the very reverse. No one ever stood higher with all parties, for his honesty and upright character, than Col. Medill, while a member of the Ohio Legislature, and as Speaker of the House. He was respected for his talents by all, and stood unimpeachable for probity and honor. No man was ever listened to with more respect whenever he addressed the House, than Col. Medill, and his influence was unequalled. Loved by his friends, and respected by his opponents, he had not an enemy to doubt his veracity or dispute his honorable intentions. It is impossible that such a man can be injured for any length of time by the chicanery of time-serving and hollow-hearted men, in league with the enemy."

From the Ohio Statesman of August 1, 1843.

"The Circleville Watchman charges us with interfering with the affairs of that Congressional district. If noticing and publishing Dr. Olds' proposition to sell out the Democratic party for Whig votes, is meddling, we suppose we are guilty of the charge, but we presume the most of the Democratic editors of the State will be liable to the same charge for the same act. We feel it a duty to aid in exposing such conduct, found where it may be. This is the height of our offending. Why does the Watchman not attempt, by some means, to clear the Doctor's skirts of the charges against him? It would look more like innocence than volleys of abuse of Col. Medill, and untempered praise of its favorite. If the Watchman were standing a little distance off, looking calmly on, it would see for itself how things looked, much better than in its present heated temper and position. We hear but one expression out of the district in relation to the position of Dr. Olds, and the course he is pursuing must soon bring about as unanimous an opinion in the district—it is unavoidable, and he and his friends should see it. The following from the *Cincinnati Enquirer* will satisfy the Watchman that we are not alone:

"WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.—The success of the Democracy throughout the country, and the decline of the dim light of Coonery, is emboldening the unprincipled and dishonest men who have crept into the Democratic party for their own aggrandizement, to develope their real character and designs. Among the several we could point out at different points, who have shown themselves dishonest in profession, and unprincipled in their intentions, we now mention Dr. E. B. Olds, of Circleville, late Representative from Pickaway, and whose soft currency notions and labors, did the Democracy of Ohio more harm last winter, than all the Whig opposition and expedients combined.

"The Doctor is a candidate for nomination to Congress, and is anxious to defeat Col. Medill, late Speaker of the House, and the able and gentlemanly member of Congress from Fairfield, Morgan and Perry—one of the truest Democrats and best men that ever went to Congress from Ohio. Olds, to insure his own success, secretly makes a proposition to the Whigs of Pickaaway for their support, and then lays a plan to gain the approbation of the Whigs of Fairfield. The facts were related to John M. Creed, a very active Whig of Lancaster, by one of Olds' mercenaries, and is exposed by that gentleman, in such a form as to merit implicit belief. Olds was to receive the support of the Whigs of Pickaway, who had no hope of electing one of their own party, and had actually *conferred with their Central Committee, as well as that of Fayette, and had arranged with them everything according to their wishes.* Mr. Creed says the further plan between Olds and the Whigs of Pickaway and Fayette, was, that those counties should be represented according to the number of townships in each, without reference to population, and when in convention he would urge his own nomination on these grounds: First, That such a representation was the most democratic; Second, That Pickaway, as the central county, was entitled to the candidate; and—Third, That they oppose the selection of an individual from Fairfield, as she had always had the candinate, no matter in what district she was placed.

"The gentleman with whom Creed conferred, was a business partner of Olds, and spoke advisedly of the whole matter. If the Whigs of Fairfield *would support* the Doctor, and give *assurance* of their intentions, and pledge themselves not to bring out a candidate of their own, it was his determination to *prevent a nomination by the Congressional Convention by forcing that body to dissolve!*

"Olds heard that he was to be exposed, and applied to Huston, the informant of Creed, for a statement of facts; they were given, and place the unprincipled intriguer just where Creed left him. How the matter will end is not for us to say; but we hope Col. Medill will succeed in his nomination and election, as much for the vindication of true Democratic honesty, as for the condemnation of its worst enemy. The true Democracy should mark all such men as Olds has proven himself to be. We owe it to our principles and their success, to purge the party of all such mercenaries, who have appended themselves to it merely for place and profit. Such men are more dangerous, create more discord, and invent more mischief than all the avowed enemies of Democracy combined."

Here, then, is a beautiful "kettle of fish" for a respectable party to cook. The opinions of *unquestionable* Democrats upon a very *questionable* gentleman. Here is the sentiment of men of high standing, character and influence with their party, upon the "traitor" who has again forced himself before the people. But to proceed: Wm. Medill fairly obtained the Democratic nomination in the district. He was a man whose adhesion to the party had been in every way tested and proven—a man of fair talents, gentlemanly bearing, and always true to the Democracy when tried. Any man who cared for the party an iota would, after the nomination, have given Col. Medill his support; but Olds determined to defeat him, and by well-concocted legerdemain, he had the satisfaction of seeing the Democratic candidate beaten upwards of five hundred votes by Col. Florence, a Whig, in a district which had about one thousand of a clear Democratic majority. At the next Congressional contest, Col. Perill beat Florence upwards of eight hundred in the same district. The

Legislature then added Madison county to the district. Perill was a candidate against T. O. Edwards, and the friends of Perill alledge and charge, that *Olds beat him* to get him out of his way. It is certain that he was beaten two or three hundred in a district which since has gone, in every contest, two or three hundred on the Democratic side. Olds' whole conduct justifies the conclusion that he gave life to an under-current by which Perill, as good a man as can be found in any party, was overthrown. But, gentlemen, the foregoing documents speak for themselves, and I shall comment on them no farther.

I have already shown, by the oath of Olds, that his hand-bills issued immediately preceding the election are not to be believed, and I will now confirm it by the antagonism of his promises before election and votes in the Legislature afterwards:

Extract from the Address of E. B. Olds to the Voters of Pivkaway County, October 10, 1845.

"As I have been accused of not speaking my mind on the subject of repealing the Banking law of last winter, permit me here to say, that there is no probability of the Democratic party having the power at the next session of repealing that law, and in my humble judgment, even if they had the power, it would be BAD POLICY FOR THEM TO DO SO until the people have had time to test its usefulness. I shall therefore OPPOSE AGITATING the question next winter, further than to tax them the same as other individuals, and endeavor to make a short session and a quick return home

"Respectfully, EDSON B. OLDS.

"October 10, 1845."

NOW READ THIS.

Proceedings of the Ohio Legislature of February 23*d*, 1846.

"Mr. Gallagher reported back the bill to repeal the act to incorporate the State Bank of Ohio, and other Banking Companies, recommending its passage.

"The following is the bill:

"SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio*, That an act entitled an act to incorporate the State Bank of Ohio, and other Banking Companies, is hereby repealed.

"SEC. 2. All Banks and Banking Companies organized under the act hereby repealed, shall be entitled to, and are hereby authorized to use, all the franchises, rights and privileges to which they are entitled under said act, for the purpose of settling and finally closing up their business, for the period of *one year* from the passage of this act.

"SEC. 3. No Bank or Banking Company organized or existing under the act hereby repealed shall issue any Bank notes, representing or intended to pass as money, under the penalty of all rights and privileges herein granted.

"The bill having been ordered to be engrossed at the Clerk's desk, the question was taken on its passage, and resulted—ayes 20, noes 39, as follows:

"AYES—Messrs. Abernethy, Anderson, Bell, Brackley, Brown of Perry, Cockerill, Cummings, Dial, Gallagher, Higgins, Knapp, OLDS, Reemelin, Sharp, Swift of KNOX, Vallandigham, Wilford, Williams of Columbiana, Williams of Coshocton and Yost—20.

"NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Ball, Barnes, and thirty-six others—in all 39."

So you can perceive how truthfully he adheres to his published promise as to future conduct.

If, gentlemen, the above were an isolated instance of a violation of a solemn pledge, it would be considered extraordinary, and, in a decent politician, inexcusable; but being merely one of a series of disgrace ful disregard of promises, it is outrageous. He prides himself on being a political gambler, and during one contest for the Legislature, published a hand-bill to the voters on the east side of the Scioto river differing very materially from one scattered by him on the western side, because the different portions were at variance—and he thought the trickery was an admirable display of Generalship.

I was in the Ohio Senate as a spectator on the thirteenth day of December, 1847, and was surprised to hear Olds and Reemelin advocating strenuously the repeal of all the laws for collecting debts in the State. Either Reemelin or Olds made the motion, as to sums under one hundred dollars, and the other amended it by striking out the "one hundred dollars," and the modification was accepted by the mover. It was while in Committee of the Whole, and *propositions not adopted there do not appear on the journal.* It was voted down. I charged the matter upon Olds on the stump and in our newspapers, and he never uttered a word in opposition until the *night before the election*, when, too late for contradiction, he issued, as an appendix to another rallying call, the following:

"OCTOBER 9th, 1848.

"Having learned that my political enemies have circulated a report, that in the Ohio Legislature, I offered a resolution or bill prohibiting the collection of any debt under $100. This charge is absolutely and unconditionally false, and I will give $100 to any person who will show any such thing from the journal. Each Township Clerk has a journal, and the proof can be easily produced. Set this down, with the other charges, as false as the men who promulgate them.

"EDSON B. OLDS."

It was very true that the matter was not upon the journals, and simply because the Senate had more sense than Dr. Olds, and voted down his base proposition; but it was not true that the charge was "absolutely and unconditionally false," and I will read from the reports in the Ohio Statesman and Ohio State Journal, and the Doctor can perhaps denounce them as lies with the same freedom as he did my statement:

From the Ohio Statesman.

(Legislative report of Senate proceeding of December 13th, 1847, under Reports of Committees — to amend the act to define the powers and duties of Justices in criminal cases, passed March 13, 1834.)

"On a motion made by Mr. OLDS while in committee, to amend the bill, an animated debate ensued, which involved the whole credit system of the country, and the project of REPEALING ALL LAWS FOR THE COLLECTION OF DEBTS."

It seems to go further even than the doctor denied in his truthful hand-bill.

From the Ohio State Journal.

(Under Senate proceedings of the same day.)

"During the consideration of a bill in committee, Mr. OLDS moved an amendment for the repeal of ALL LAWS FOR THE COLLECTION OF DEBTS. Messrs. Olds and Reemelin *advocated* the amendment, and Messrs. Archbold, Beaver, Bennet, Spindler and others opposed it."

My memory is certainly correct as to the fact of the proposition for repealing the laws for sums under $100, and the report under consideration strengthens my position, for to that extent only could justices have jurisdiction; but the question assumed a wider range. The reporters are brief, but each one states distinctly that OLDS *was the man who wished to nullify all laws for enforcing contracts.*

If the Doctor can obtain the certificate of Archbold, or Beaver, or Spindler, or even Reemelin, that the reporters belied him, then I might consider the subject debateable, if I did not know better myself, and had not heard with my own ears what I stated and he denied. The public can now see who is the false man as to the matter, and the motive Olds had for his denial; his conduct in this matter corresponds with his other acts, and is *worthy of the man.*

But, abandoning old records, which must be to him extremely disagreeable and uninteresting, we will approach the great man in Congress. He has been distinguishing himself there wonderfully. We were a little fearful that after the Doctor had fired off, as he did in Congress, the two speeches with which he used to illuminate the butcher blocks in our own market

house, that he would be "out of soap." We all knew those speeches as perfectly as he, and could deliver them about as well—their faces were *very* familiar, and the two last *lunges* we regard as innovations upon an established usage, and the old addresses ought to complain for being displaced. He is now *saying over*, I am informed, his two last Congressional efforts on the stump, both of which have been printed and circulated; the object is to give the attitudes and tones he gave in Washington City.

In his fulmihations on the "issues" of parties, he uses an expression which indicates fully the hollowness and heartlessness of the man: "*Our glorious Union was only preserved by the interposition of Divine Providence, as manifested in the death of General Taylor.*" In other words—if General Taylor had lived, he would, as President of the United States, have rent asunder this stately confederacy and made discord and civil war. We can be thankful to heaven, my friends, that but one *object* could be found in the American Congress vile enough to utter so opprobrious a sentiment. It is approved no where. I should like to know upon what basis that sapient statesman founds his fiendish charge? Where in the conduct of Taylor is the reason for it? Why does he, hyena-like, rake the graves of the illustrious dead to defame their memory? Does he think that an allegation so unmanly and untrue will elevate him anywhere? Does Dr. Olds think that General Taylor cared as little for the Union as he did when he declared in the presence of James McCoy and Jos. G. Doddridge, of Circleville, that if Texas were annexed he would go in for a dissolution of the Union? When such a person as Doctor Olds makes war against a departed patriot, "may my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth" if I fail to defend him and attack the aggressor. A truer friend than Taylor this country never had; from his earliest to his latest years he stood by it under all circumstances, and amid every peril. There was not an emotion of his heart that was not gushing and fervent for the perpetuity of the Union. He loved it because he had helped to sustain it, and in the exposure of his life upon the field of strife, he had given evidence of his attachment. He loved it in his life—loved it in his dying hour, and every influence emanating from his grave strengthens the love of his followers for the confederacy. The "MERE MERCENARY SOLDIER FIGHTING FOR PAY" was only one Democrat, who, jackal like, would ravage his tomb to slander his fame.

He also charges on the Whigs the support of the "alien and sedition laws" What a pity that this gentleman was so long finding out that the Whigs favored that measure, and that he was in ignorance while he labored with them. His voice, even at this remote period, sounds like an admonition from the sepulchre of the man who, according to Col. Medary, "*died for the want of honest principles.*" From the speech of E. B. Olds, one would be induced to infer that General Scott is determined to renovate these old propositions, and has sworn "eternal hostility" to the foreigner. The whole conduct of Scott eminently disproves such deductions. His conduct, when himself a prisoner, is rescuing from death the Irish soldiers who were captured with him, speaks trumpet-tongued above the brawling of demagogues. Whatever sentiments General Scott may have uttered on the naturalization laws, his views now are correct and patriotic. But Dr. Olds will not allow him to alter a word or an idea: his whole desire seems to be, to try and make the public believe that General Scott occupies ground which he does not. Men usually like to see people right, and praise them, if they have been wrong, for changing their views; but the Doctor grows furious over the thought that the old Hero compliments the foreigh population, and bids God speed it to our shores; and upon no condition will he allow the Whigs or their leader to be the friends of the emigrant. A man who has changed so often ought not to blame Scott for changing once.

The safest and easiest mode of determining which party is the most friendly to foreigners, is not by the windy blustering of politicians, but by their registered acts. *Records* rarely lie, and when a party tells the foreigner that its love and admiration for him is unbounded, and then refuses aid and stifles every feeling of humanity when woe and wretchedness and want oppress him, an argument to prove it friendly is bitter mockery and insult. Such has been the conduct of the Democratic party towards a people to whose toil and perseverance we owe the immense improvements of our land—which has furnished divines for our pulpits, orators for our Senates, artisans for our workshops, laborers for our fields, and busy hands and intellects everywhere—a nation which demands our commiseration and our prayers, and the efforts of the just in every clime.

There stands Ireland, naked, desolate and bleeding—there she is, as she has been for ages, the victim of rapine, violence and wrong. Other nations can recur to some events with satisfaction—to some period with pride; but her whole history is unmitigated sorrow, and the endurance of unjust exactions and unrelaxing tyranny. All other nations have at times had respite from suffering, but she has been the receptacle of every calamity, the silent endurer alike of man's oppression and Heaven's chastisement; and for her children there has been no day of rejoicing. And yet, amid all these distresses, Ireland has produced giant men. Ask her for warlike skill and courage, and she will point you to Wellington and Waterloo, and every battle-field within the confines of this Union which has been reddened by the blood of brave and true men. Ask her for talent, and she will designate Curran, and Grattan, and Phillips, and Emmet, and O'Connell, and Meagher—names that must be remembered long as freedom towers a monument, or glory garlands the illustrious. Was ever devotion more true than that which the Irishman manifests for Erin? The direr its afflictions, the more closely he clings. Amid crushing care, and squallid wretchedness, and blear-eyed famine, he remembers his country, and boldly and clearly puts forth the "lone anthem of Erin go Bragh." In every condition, a genuine Irishman is true to the instincts of man. Whoever sought shelter in his cabin and found it not? When did the hungry man go from his hovel unfed? To the houseless or the needy, of his little he freely gives, with no reward but the consciousness of duty performed. A few years ago, to the usual scourgings of that country by man was super-added the visitation of God, and FAMINE in all its ghastliness and horror reigned supreme and triumphant—the earth refused to yield her increase, and, upon the heath, by the hill, and on the sea-side, hundreds were perishing for want of food. Infants drew blood from famishing mothers; women extended their long, bony hands and shrieked for bread; old men, in their unutterable agony, cursed the day in which they were born, and those in the prime of years looked round in utter hopelessness for help, and "cast themselves upon the earth, and gnashed their teeth and howled!" Amid this consternation and anguish, Ireland raised her hands, and with her voice of agony cried across the waters — Help! oh help, for Jesus' sake! And justice, and mercy, and humanity, and every upright emotion of the human soul, responded to the call. The whole American heart was filled with commiseration and sympathy for Ireland. Cities, towns and individuals contributed for her relief, and an application was made to the American Congress, that the Government might evince, not its magnanimity, but its justice and humanity. A bill was introduced to the Senate to appropriate five hundred thousand dollars to her relief, and passed that body, with none but Democratic votes opposing. It went into the *lower* house three days before the close of the session; a motion was made to take it from the table and act upon it, and—I blush for my country while I name it—FORTY-FIVE WHIGS *and thirteen Democrats voted to take it up, and* EIGHTY-EIGHT DEMOCRATS *and eleven Whigs opposed it.* The bill was defeated, and thousands of Irishmen were starved. The refusal to

benow to any other nation would have been less unreasonable, for Ireland has made this country. There is not a railroad car that pants along your mountain side, there is not the sound of a whip on your turnpike roads, there is not a steamboat that casts its vapor to the air, nor a bugle's blast echoes along your canals, but speaks irresistably of the connexion of American enterprise and improvement with Irish energy and industry. Let every man remember it is not the party which *thunders* about its love for the foreigner who would do him good, but it is the party whose "acts speak louder than words." Yet, "publish it not in Gath, tell it not in Askelon," that the Democratic members of the American Congress, reveling in luxury and pleasure, refused to make a scant appropriation to save from the jaws of death the miserable and the dying of poor, ill-fated Ireland.

Yet, despite this record, Olds has the unblushing effrontery to charge hatred to foreigners upon the Whig party, and endeavor foully to create dissension among our citizens. How closely his assertions conform to history matters not if they but accomplish his purpose. Charges of opposition to foreigners are only preferred by such men as Olds. Let no man be mistaken in him. He is as a politician crafty, energetic and conscienceless. His labors are for *himself, and himself only*. Party creeds are to him mere cobwebs, if they interfere with his selfish schemes. If he desires any nomination and fail, *woe* to the Democrat by whom he is surpassed. He will mark and defeat him, as he did Medill. Olds knows without doubt, that the Democracy are weary and disgusted with him, and it is not through the high minded men of his party that he receives nominations, but through his *pimps* and *parasites*, and he has never yet been a Congressional candidate, but that he has given the most solemn assurances that he would never again come before the people, and they have supported him, relying on his voluntary promise and an unwillingness to distract the party; but the violation of his pledges has been so frequent and apparent that he will be tolerated no longer. He is endeavoring now to strengthen himself with his party, by his malignant prosecution of Whigs. Look at his course towards Thomas Corwin.

It is not my design to enter into any defence of the character of Thomas Corwin. His friends invite a scrutinizing inspection of all his acts, and know that he will come forth triumphant. Cast him into the crucible, and he will be as gold doubly defined. It is an intimate knowledge of the man which gives to him his dearest fame and surrounds him with a bulwark of true hearts. He inhabits an atmosphere in the breathing of which Olds would perish, and where his tongue of slander would make no sound. View Corwin as the beardless boy driving his wagon through the black swamp to feed our soldiery, as the orator in the Senate, or the officer in the Cabinet, and his every act proclaims him "every inch a man." But he could not be freed from the attacks of this "*Wolf in sheeps clothing*," but is assailed with vituperation and coarse abuse, and denounced as a thief and rogue, and a committee appointed to investigate the charges against him. Corwin demanded an immediate hearing, because he was conscious of his innocence. Where then was the *Lancaster Eagle's* inflated "TRAITOR," who had impugned his honesty, and aspersed his character? Ordinary decency would have required him to be ready to establish Corwin's criminality, but he had slunk away from the investigation. He knew he could not prove the charges when he made them, and he did not prefer them to prove, but merely to allege, corruption against a prominent Whig whose friends are every where in order that it might produce its effect on the election of this fall. Olds knew that committee, although Democratic, would report against him, and thus add another feather to his cockade of political infamy, and like men of his class, he shrunk from exposure.

I know that Olds' speech was made toward the close of the session, and he chose that time that he might thus prevent an examination as to its truth; but his choosing such a period, his cowardly retreat, and his whole party career, justifies us in knowing that the source of the charge is its most complete refutation. When Olds was a candidate for Congress against Edwards, he ranted and foamed about Edwards' having taken extra mileage. He now, in a speech, admits that he Galphinised, as he calls it, for extra mileage, *eight hundred and sixty dollars*, to which he was not in any way entitled, and thus cheated the Treasury of the United States out of that amount, partly on the score of extra mileage.

And now, my fellow citizens, hear me briefly on one subject, and I have done. Dr. Olds was a member of Congress, and in Washington City, when the vote was taken on the "Compromise Question," which he now lauds as a great Democratic measure—and how is his vote recorded? Can any gentleman tell me? It is a blank. He left his seat and *shirked* the responsibility. It was a two-edged subject, beneath which the whole country swayed, as rocks your forest beneath God's tempest winds, and he basely cowered, and faltered and *fled*. It was not because he did not know the right, but he had not the manliness to do it, lest it might effect his mercenary designs. No question, however commanding—no interest to the people, however dear, can swerve that man in his adhesion to himself. He is for Dr. Olds *first*, Dr. Olds *last*, Dr. Olds *forever*. I have given you a history of his political behavior, not from his foes, but from his friends and himself. Be you Democrat or Whig, weigh the subject carefully—think of it sensibly, and ask yourself whether you can conscientiously support for a post of honor and power, this "*mere mercenary soldier fighting for pay*,"—whose whole political existence presents the success of absurdities and monstrosities unparalleled in any country in any age.

The Ohio State University
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POLITICAL CAREER OF DR. EDSON B. OLDS

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